

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 01235 152323Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 L-03 PER-03 /034 W
-----152342Z 047568 /66

P R 152020Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC 2602

UNCLAS MANAGUA 1235

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: APER, AFSP, AMGT, NU, RO
SUBJECT: BUCHAREST EARTHQUAKE: ASSISTANCE TO EMBASSY FSL EMPLOYEES

REF: BUCHAREST 1766 (NOTAL)

1. REGRETTABLY, THERE WAS NO ORGANIZED EFFORT BY USG OR ITS INSTALLATIONS SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED TOWARD THE RELIEF OF FSL EMPLOYEES IN NICARAGUA WHO SUFFERED LOSSES IN 1972 DISASTER. IT APPEARS THAT USAID INFORMALLY MADE AVAILABLE TENTS AND RELATED ITEMS TO SOME OF WORST HIT FSLs AND ENSURED THAT ALL U.S. MISSION EMPLOYEES WERE ELIGIBLE FOR AID-BACKED, LOW COST, EMERGENCY HOUSING LOAN ASSISTANCE. NO CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ANY SOURCE WERE TENDERED TO OR EARMARKED FOR FSL EMPLOYEES.

2. BUCHAREST'S INQUIRY AND OUR FINDINGS BRING HOME THE FACT THAT FSL EMPLOYEES LACK PROTECTION FROM CALAMITY OR DISASTER OF THE TYPE PROVIDED AMERICAN COLLEAGUES UNDER PROVISIONS OF MILITARY PERSONNEL AND CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE'S CLAIMS ACT OF 1964, AS AMENDED. MANAGUA'S INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY RECALLS THAT, ALTHOUGH FOREIGN NATIONALS ARE INCLUDED IN ACT'S SCOPE, LOSSES WHICH OCCURRED AT PRINCIPAL PLACE OF RESIDENCE WERE, APPARENTLY, NOT DEEMED TO BE "INCIDENT TO SERVICE" AND RELIEF VIA THIS MEANS WAS NOT AVAILABLE. IT SEEMS TO US THAT ABILITY OF A U.S. MISSION TO FUNCTION UNDER DISASTER CONDITIONS DEPENDS IN LARGE MEASURE ON CAPABILITIES AND SKILLS OF FSL STAFF. TO THE EXTENT WE COULD HELP TO RELIEVE OBVIOUS
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CONCERN ABOUT MATERIAL MATTERS BY OFFERING A DEGREE OF ASSISTANCE ON PERSONAL FRONT, BOTH EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE SHOULD BENEFIT.

3. THERE WOULD SEEM TO BE MERIT IN PURSUING THIS MATTER TO SEE IF THERE MIGHT NOT BE, WITHIN THE "NON-APPROPRIATED FUND" EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION/EMBASSY CREDIT UNION CONTEXT, SOME MEANS OF CREATING AN EMERGENCY LOAN GUARANTEE MECHANISM TO HELP OUR FSL EMPLOYEES

WHEN NATURAL DISASTER OR MAJOR CALAMITY STRIKES A POST AND ITS PERSONNEL. WORLDWIDE, ASSET LEVELS MIGHT BE SUFFICIENT TO SUPPORT OUR VITAL HUMAN RESOURCES AT TIME OF GREAT NEED. THERE IS LITTLE WE CAN DO FROM HERE, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT WHEN ROUGHLY 50 PERCENT OF THE DEPARTMENT'S TOTAL PERSONNEL STRENGTH IS POTENTIALLY INVOLVED, SENIOR MANAGEMENT'S INTEREST IS WARRANTED AND ACTIVE INVESTIGATION BY THE BUREAU OF PERSONNEL IS IN ORDER.

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Sent Date: 15-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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